

the Administration to base its decision next March 1 on a specific set of measurable benchmarks. In brief, my proposal requires progress on nine specific issues. These include progress on establishing an interdiction network of radars, progress on extradition, progress on dealing with corruption, steps to resolve carry weapons, steps to reach a maritime agreement, and steps to resolve refueling rights.

I believe that this approach and these measures give us the reasonable terms of reference for how to proceed. This approach gives us the opportunity and time to develop the cooperation on the drug issue that I believe we all want.

This resolution outlines both the concerns that have been expressed by Congress and what we expect Mexico to accomplish before March 1, 1998. Not rhetoric, but actions. We ought to proceed with care before we take steps to fundamentally alter the United States-Mexican relationship. But we must keep faith with our responsibilities to the public.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 11—RELATIVE TO A NUTRITION PROGRAM

Mr. GREGG (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. JEFFORDS, and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources:

##### S. CON. RES. 11

Whereas older individuals who receive proper nutrition tend to live longer, healthier lives;

Whereas older individuals who receive meals through the nutrition programs carried out under the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) have better nutrition than older individuals who do not participate in the programs;

Whereas through the programs 123,000,000 meals were served to approximately 2,500,000 older individuals in congregate settings, and 119,000,000 meals were served to approximately 989,000 homebound older individuals in 1995;

Whereas older individuals who participate in congregate nutrition programs carried out under the Act benefit not only from meals, but also from social interaction with their peers, which has a positive influence on their mental health;

Whereas every dollar provided for nutrition services under the Older Americans Act of 1965 is supplemented by \$1.70 from State, local, tribal, and other Federal funds;

Whereas home-delivered meals provided under the Act are an important part of every community's home and community based long-term care program to assist older individuals to remain independent in their homes;

Whereas the home-delivered meals represent a lifeline to many vulnerable older individuals who are not able to shop and prepare meals for themselves;

Whereas the nutrition programs carried out under the Act successfully target the older individuals who are in greatest need and most vulnerable in the community; and

Whereas the nutrition programs have assisted millions of older individuals beginning with the enactment of Public Law 92-258, which established the first Federal nutrition

program for older individuals, and continuing throughout the 25-year history of the programs; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Senate—*

(1) celebrates the 25th anniversary of the first amendment to the Older Americans Act of 1965 to establish a nutrition program for older individuals, and

(2) recognizes that nutrition programs carried out under the Older Americans Act of 1965 continuously have made an invaluable contribution to the well-being of older individuals.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 63—PROCLAIMING "NATIONAL CHARACTER COUNTS WEEK"

Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. FRIST, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. SPECTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

##### S. RES. 63

Whereas young people will be the stewards of our communities, Nation, and world in critical times, and the present and future well-being of our society requires an involved, caring citizenry with good character;

Whereas concerns about the character training of children have taken on a new sense of urgency as violence by and against youth threatens the physical and psychological well-being of the Nation;

Whereas more than ever, children need strong and constructive guidance from their families and their communities, including schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, and civic groups;

Whereas the character of a nation is only as strong as the character of its individual citizens;

Whereas the public good is advanced when young people are taught the importance of good character and that character counts in personal relationships, in school, and in the workplace;

Whereas scholars and educators agree that people do not automatically develop good character and, therefore, conscientious efforts must be made by institutions and individuals that influence youth to help young people develop the essential traits and characteristics that comprise good character;

Whereas although character development is, first and foremost, an obligation of families, the efforts of faith communities, schools, and youth, civic, and human service organizations also play a very important role in supporting family efforts by fostering and promoting good character;

Whereas the Senate encourages students, teachers, parents, youth, and community leaders to recognize the valuable role our youth play in the present and future of our Nation and to recognize that character is an important part of that future;

Whereas in July 1992, the Aspen Declaration was written by an eminent group of educators, youth leaders, and ethics scholars for the purpose of articulating a coherent framework for character education appropriate to a diverse and pluralistic society;

Whereas the Aspen Declaration states, "Effective character education is based on core ethical values which form the foundation of democratic society.";

Whereas the core ethical values identified by the Aspen Declaration constitute the 6 core elements of character;

Whereas the 6 core elements of character are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship;

Whereas the 6 core elements of character transcend cultural, religious, and socioeconomic differences;

Whereas the Aspen Declaration states, "The character and conduct of our youth reflect the character and conduct of society; therefore, every adult has the responsibility to teach and model the core ethical values and every social institution has the responsibility to promote the development of good character.";

Whereas the Senate encourages individuals and organizations, especially those who have an interest in the education and training of our youth, to adopt the 6 core elements of character as intrinsic to the well-being of individuals, communities, and society as a whole; and

Whereas the Senate encourages communities, especially schools and youth organizations, to integrate the 6 core elements of character into programs serving students and children: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved, That the Senate—*

(1) proclaims the week of October 19 through October 25, 1997, as "National Character Counts Week"; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States and interested groups to embrace the 6 core elements of character and to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleagues, both Republican and Democrat—and especially Senator DOMENICI—in submitting this year's resolution to designate the week of October 19–25 as Character Counts Week.

I believe it is important that we put character back into our vocabulary. The American people are crying out for virtue and values—character does count and it's essential that we focus our efforts in extending this message.

The Character Counts movement, which emphasizes trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship, seeks to teach the core elements of good character to our Nation's young people.

One of the most important things we can ever do for our children is to help them learn and understand the value of virtue and the importance of character.

The Character Counts Coalition is gaining momentum across the country, and I am proud to be a part of that effort.

I think it is clear from the reports every night on the news, that such a movement has never been more timely. I am proud that the citizens of my home State, Tennessee, have joined the call for character renewal.

Last year, I spoke of the city of Greeneville, TN, which put together a character education program featuring 10 community virtues including self-respect, respect for others, perseverance, courtesy, fairness and justice, responsibility, honesty, kindness, self-discipline, and courage. Since then, Greeneville has extended its character education program from the city schools to the county school district, too.

Mr. President, I am proud that Hamblen County schools in Morristown, TN, have adopted the Character